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Security Agency Scandal Splitting Israel's Cabinet

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JERUSALEM, June 28 — A new showdown appears to be shaping up between the Labor Party and the Likud bloc, this time over the scandal involving Shin Beth, the domestic intelligence agency.

The Labor Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, has found himself facing rising demands within his party that the Cabinet order a commission of inquiry to find out to what extent political figures were involved in the Shin Beth affair. Four members of the agency have been given immunity in the case, which involves the killings of two Palestinian bus hijackers in 1984.

The Likud leader, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, opposes any further inquiry in the case, saying President Chaim Herzog's decision to grant immunity to the head of Shin Beth and three of his deputies brings the matter to a close.

Mr. Peres called a meeting of Labor ministers tonight to discuss what Labor's position should be on the issue at the Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Peres Stand Not Clear

Although most Labor ministers had declared their desire for a further inquiry, Mr. Peres's stand was unclear. He had changed positions many times in the last month — first opposing any inquiry, then supporting one, then opposing it again and most recently seeming to lean toward the idea — and no one in the Labor Party was ready to predict what he would ultimately decide.

In any event, officials say dissatisfaction with his leadership appears to be widespread in the Labor Party. His handling of the Shin Beth scandal in particular has shocked many liberals and civil liberties groups, who had looked on the Prime Minister as an ally.

Mr. Shamir, for his part, has sought to depict Labor's quest for an investi-

gation as unpatriotic, insulting to the President and designed solely to upset the national unity coalition agreement, which stipulates that Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres switch jobs in October.

Even if the Labor ministers demand an inquiry on Sunday, it is most unlikely that they will win the support of the Cabinet. Not only are all 10 Likud ministers opposed, but so too are those from the religious parties, and together with the Likud they make up a majority. This raises the question of whether Labor might choose to break up the Government over the inquiry.

Immunity Granted to 4

With the approval of Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir, President Herzog granted immunity Wednesday to Avraham Shalom, the chief of Shin Beth, and to three of his deputies, in exchange for

Mr. Shalom's resignation. Investigators have accused the Shin Beth chief of ordering the killings of two captured Palestinian bus hijackers in April 1984 and of covering up the affair with the help of his deputies, in a way that made it appear that a senior army officer, Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, was responsible for the killings. The Palestinians who died were cousins, Majdi and Subhi Abu-Jumas.

In light of the presidential action, Attorney General Yosef Harish called off all investigations into the case, even though Israeli press reports have suggested that Mr. Shamir, who was Prime Minister when the hijacking and killings took place, gave some kind of approval for a cover-up. The extent of Mr. Shamir's involvement remains unclarified by either himself or the courts.

In an interview with the daily Yediot Aharonot on Friday, Minister Without Portfolio Ezer Weizman said, "I accuse Shamir of abandoning his subordinates in the Shin Beth by refusing to be investigated."

Mr. Shamir said: "Ezer Weizman wants my head and I am not planning to let him have it. Beyond my legitimate right to protect my head, I am not planning to let Ezer, who has a big mouth, get what he wants. What he says is nonsense. Weizman is not interested in the truth, but in crucifying me. His talk about the need for an inquiry is aimed only at preventing rotation and the Likud coming into power."